

GOD WITH US

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford

On Sundays

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. in the Church

Sunday School begins after the Children's Message at the 10:00 a.m. service.

St. Lucia Festival

Friday, December 4:

Performances:

5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
ADVENT *and* CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP AND EVENTS

Advent

Sunday Worship

Sundays, December 6, 13, and 20; 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Services of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24:

The Nativity of Our Lord

5:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve

Candlelight Festival

Service of Worship

10:30 p.m.:

Christmas Prelude

11:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve

Candlelight Festival

Service of Worship

1st Sunday Hoops!

Join Pastor Corgan, Vicar Dominic and others in the gym on the **first Sunday of every month** for some basketball, starting on December 6.

Bible

Conversation:

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Music Room

Receiving New Members!

Please see page 3.



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Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. in the Church

†

Thursday Bible Conversation

**will be held at 10:00 a.m. in
the Music Room every
Thursday.**



Connect with us on Facebook!

Please visit [http://
www.emanuelhartford.org/](http://www.emanuelhartford.org/)

and click on Facebook,

OR visit [https://](https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford)

[www.facebook.com/
emanuelhartford](https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford)



**The Mission of Emanuel Lutheran Church
In response to Christ's love we:**

Worship God in joyful celebration,
Invite others into this community of Christ,
Serve those in need in the community and
in the world,
Nurture all people in faith through Chris-
tian education,
Encourage and support one another
in Christian living and fellowship.

www.emanuelhartford.org

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FROM PASTOR CORGAN

Friends in Christ,

It's easy to be distracted from what's important. At this time of year, as the celebration of the birth of Jesus approaches, there are many distractions.

Christmas is used by some as an opportunity to push their own agenda, an agenda that sometimes is remarkably unrelated to the birth of Jesus!

For instance, some people, who claim to be Christian, protest one coffee shop's design of its holiday cup. They claim that by its lack of seasonal symbols, like snowflakes, Santa Claus, etc., the coffee shop is somehow waging war on Christmas. Most of us see this as quite absurd, but here in the national arena, the absurd has become reality!

One politician claims that once elected, he will see that everyone says "Merry Christmas." That's a strange comment to make in this "land of the free." I hear such talk and wonder about my Muslim friend, my Jewish friend and my atheist friend. Personally, I want to have nothing to do with forcing or coercing anyone to say anything about Christmas! **Faith or belief that is required is no longer a faith based on the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

We get distracted – fairly easily, around this time of year, distracted from the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

"Keeping Christ in Christmas," if that is the point for some, has nothing to do with coffee cups or how we greet one another. It has everything to do with our focusing our attention on that "holy night," the birth of the incarnate God and its history – changing implications.

It is so easy to be distracted from the heart of the matter.

For Christians, for followers of Jesus, as we celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas, this is a time to reflect on God's grace, mercy and love revealed in the Christ child.

". . .for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

My word of encouragement for all of us this December:

- Be intentional as you celebrate Advent and prepare yourselves for the birth of Jesus:
- Light a candle each evening and say a prayer of thanks that God so loved the world that Jesus was born;

- Slow down and practice acts of love, kindness and patience during the holiday rush;
- As you think about gifts for Christmas, make plans to become a Secret Santa to a family or individual who doesn't have as much as you do (I can help you identify individuals or families who would be so grateful for such help!);
- After church on Sunday, the 27th, deliver a Christmas poinsettia to one of our homebound members (I guarantee you will make his/her day!);
- After your feast is over, join others from Emanuel on Tuesday, December 29, as we together prepare and serve a MANNA meal to some of those in Hartford who don't have a home.

There are so many ways to keep Christ at the center of Christmas and none has anything to do with coffee cups or how we greet each other.

God's peace and joy to you and to all of God's people during Advent and this Christmas season.

Joy to the World!

Pastor Corgan



NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED

Sunday, December 6

If you'd like to make Emanuel your church home,
please contact Pastor Corgan at

john.corgan@gmail.com or 860-525-0894. Thanks.

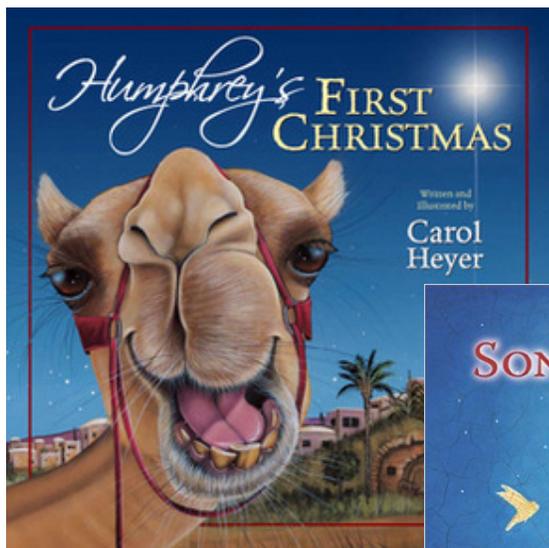
Children's Library News

The Children's Library is excited about several new Christmas books that have arrived. Humphrey's First Christmas by Carol Heyer tells the story of Humphrey, a camel that carried the wise men to Bethlehem. We all know the story of the three wise men, but what about the camels that carried them? This wonderful story tells of Humphrey's long, cold journey. On the way he loses his blanket but does acquire a new one. When he gets to Bethlehem, he is so drawn to the love that is surrounding Jesus that he willingly gives up his new blanket to the Christ child.

On one quiet night, creation whispered a secret. In Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story by Sally Lloyd-Jones, the skies shout to the seas while the waves roared the secret to the whales. The message of "It's time! It's time!" spreads through all of nature and God's creations. The moment of the Christ child's arrival had come and all of creation shouted in celebration.

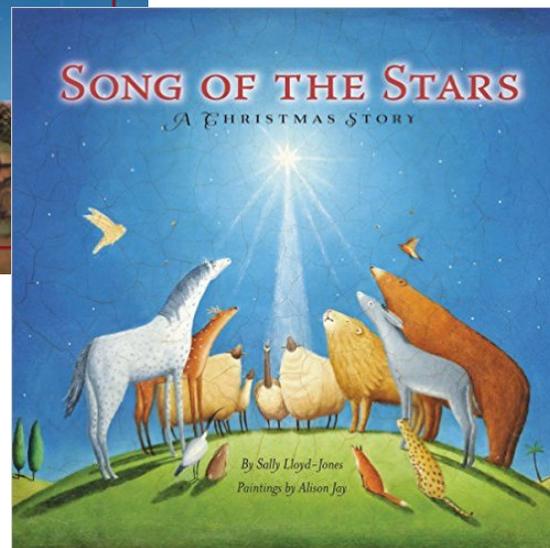
The wonderful author Max Lucado tells the story of two charming mice in Itsy Bitsy Christmas. Itsy and Bitsy hear that the King is coming to Bethlehem and they set off to find Him. Along the way they are told that they are too small and unimportant for any king. When they are about to give up, they learn that Christ the King comes for everyone. This delightful story helps children understand God's love and that Christ comes for all, despite whether they are little or big, young or old.

Joyce Meyer tells a humorous tale of Hayley Hippo in The Perfect Christmas Pageant. Hayley is asked to direct the annual Christmas



pageant. She accepts the assignment and decides that this is her gift to Jesus and everything must be perfect. Of course this doesn't happen and, after many disappointments, Hayley learns that everything doesn't have to be perfect because Christmas is about Christ, not about glittering lights or an impressive show.

These are but a few books in our wonderful collection of Christmas materials. Make sure you visit the library to see the many books, videos and DVDs that celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Some Important Information for our Ministry and Committee Leaders

If you submit names for our monthly newsletter (*God With Us*), under the section of those serving for the month, please know that Becki Murphy will contact you if anyone signs up online with our new "SignUpGenius" form.

As usual, you will **submit your list of names to Karen by the 15th of the month to be included in the next "God With Us" newsletter.** Email or call Karen if you have any questions - thanks!

St. Lucia Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday, December 2 –
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. "dress"
rehearsal, sanctuary

Friday, December 4 – 4:00 p.m.
arrival. 5:00 p.m. performance.
8:00 p.m. performance.

Schedule updates and
downloadable music files can be
found at:

[http://www.reuningscherer.net/
lucia](http://www.reuningscherer.net/lucia)

Please contact Nancy Altschuler
at nancyaltschuler@mac.com.

St. Lucia Festival

102 Years

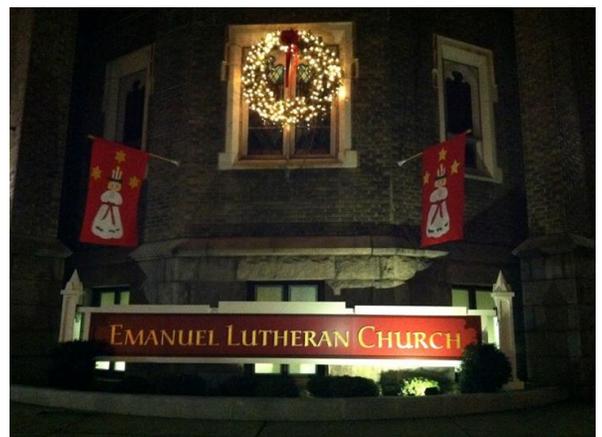
December 4, 2015 at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. at Emanuel!



The photo above was taken by Patty Swanson. pattyswanson.com

Please join us for the St. Lucia Festival, which is presented by the adults and young people of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

We'll have Swedish refreshments and crafts available after each performance. Tickets may be purchased at the door and are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children, 12 and under.



Council Highlights

October Church Council Highlights

Council President Mark Hopper called the meeting to order and Pastor Corgan led devotions on All Saints Sunday, encouraging everyone to think about people in our lives who have helped us grow in faith. The minutes of the September 22, 2015 Council meeting were accepted.

Senior Pastor's report: Pastor Corgan reported on the Bishop's Convocation Service at Emanuel on 10-19-15 during which Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached. Bishop Hazelwood hosted a luncheon recognizing Synod donors to Lutheran World Hunger; Emanuel member Barbara Erskine was thanked for her major gift to the Lutheran World Hunger Appeal. Bishop Eaton commented favorably on our outreach ministry and the quality of our music and our sanctuary.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Marschhausen presented the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for September and Year to Date. There is a downturn in income due to market losses and the Faith Budget and Pledge line items being behind plan. Expenses are in line (\$3000 under budget).

Courtyard Project Plan: Bernie Johnson from the Property Committee reported that plans are under development for renovating the courtyard and Memorial Garden, including new hardscape with engraved pavers, landscaping, irrigation and granite memorial stones. Council expressed support for the project concept. Bernie will present detail plans to Council for final approval once firm costs are available.

315 Capitol Avenue Update: Jane Wunder noted that there have been no showings yet and little interest in the property. Our realtor, Shimkus, Murphy & Lemkuil, has suggested a reduction in price. Other alternatives are being pursued including discussions with Schochet Associates about the possibility that Capitol Towers might find the property useful in solving parking problems.

Stewardship Committee Report: Chet Brodnicki noted the schedule for the Generosity Campaign and follow-ups to pledge Sunday.

Memorial Bequest: Pastor Corgan announced that Emanuel has received a significant bequest from the estate of Justina and Evert Olson. An allocation plan was presented, endorsed by the Olsons' executor, which includes additions to the Accessibility Project Fund, Capital Needs, Sandberg Mission, Samaritan and Youth Endowment funds, gifts to Camp Calumet and New England Synod, a Ministry Reserve fund to support the operating budget, and an amount to underwrite the Memorial Garden/Courtyard Project. The allocation plan was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

John H. Stadlander Conference Room: In 2010, Emanuel pledged \$25,000 (based on a congregation pledge campaign) to name a conference room at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, in memory of Pastor John H. Stadlander. To fulfill a still outstanding commitment on this pledge, it was moved that Council approve the expenditure of \$3,566 to complete the funding process for the naming of this conference room, to be paid from endowment fund #106, the John H. Stadlander Memorial Fund. (This endowment fund was established in 2002 and currently has a balance of \$91,781.) The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Sandberg Mission Annual

Funds: Pastor Corgan presented the Sandberg Annual Funds Team recommendations for spending the remaining \$19,011 in 2015 funds:

- Mosaic \$1000
- Calumet \$3000
- Camp Calumet Scholarship Fund \$2000
- Fresh Food—Manna \$2000
- Outreach Food Packaging in Feb 2016 \$1000
- Burns School \$5000
- Billings Forge \$1000
- Loaves and Fishes \$1985
- SPROUT (Grocery Gift Cards) \$1750
- Grace Academy \$100
- Alzheimer's Association \$120

The recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Facility Use Guidelines: Council unanimously adopted a new policy and guidelines for the use of Emanuel facilities by members. This document is similar to the that previously adopted for outside groups but altered in terms of fees. The policy will be helpful in clearly outlining expectations regarding how facilities and equipment are used, and also sets guidelines for covering the extra costs incurred by the church for setup and/or cleaning. This policy becomes part of Emanuel's Continuing Resolutions.

Contract/Purchase Order

Policy: Council also unanimously approved another Continuing Resolution concerning the policy and procedures for signing contracts and purchase orders. This document provides clear written policy for signing and securing of contracts and purchase orders that legally encumber the congregation.

Accessibility Building Committee

Update: Mark Hopper reported that a project kickoff meeting was held with the architect and newly retained Construction Manager. The overall project schedule is being developed.

Committee, Ministry or Task

Force Leader: Your year-end report is due in the church office by **January 4, 2016**. Karen will send you some helpful information to help you get it done quickly and easily. Thanks!



A Blood Pressure Screening by our Parish Health Ministers will be held on Sunday, December 13. The screening will be held in the Music Room after the 10:00 a.m. service.

Volunteer Opportunities on Sundays

If you are interested in volunteering to be a Greeter or a Lector, please contact the coordinators below.

Greeters: Eileen Mitchell, 860-688-4867 or gemitich@comcast.net

Lectors: Lynn Sherman, 860-523-1702

Thank you Eileen and Lynn for your service to these important ministries.

Calling All E-mail Addresses

Please be sure to keep the parish office updated with your most current email address. More and more communications are sent out through electronic means rather than paper mailings. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at office@emanuelhartford.org. Thank you.

125th Anniversary Banner

As you are aware, the 125th Anniversary banner continues to be posted on one of the towers and there have been questions raised as to when it will be taken down. At this time, the banner won't be taken down as there is an expense involved in contracting for a bucket loader to remove it. However, a decision will be made by the Council once the work on the towers begins as there is a need for a bucket loader at that time. We will keep you informed.

Bible Readings

For the Month of December

December 6
Second Sunday in Advent
"Isaiah of the Exile"
Isaiah 40:1-11

December 13
Third Sunday in Advent
"Rebuilding the Temple"
Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

December 20
Fourth Sunday in Advent
"Zechariah's Song"
Luke 1:5-13, 57-80

December 24
Christmas Eve
"The Birth of Jesus"
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25
Christmas
"The Magi"
Luke 2:8-20

December 27
First Sunday of Christmas
Mark 1:1-20

EMANUEL SENIORS TOGETHER

Christmas BRUNCH

"Emanuel Seniors Together"

Christmas Brunch, Thursday, December 10 at 12:00 Noon.

Please join us for a wonderful time of singing Christmas Carols and enjoying delicious food! **There will be a special presentation that day from the Connecticut Historical Society: *From Hula Hoops to High Fashion: Remembering G Fox in the 1950's*.** In the 1950s, just about every major city had a landmark department store. In Connecticut, it was G. Fox & Co. in Hartford! This presentation will bring you back in time to Fox's heyday as we go from floor to floor and recall departments ranging from accessories on the "street" floor, to designer dresses on 6, and ending at Toyland on 11. You'll also learn about Beatrice Fox Auerbach, the remarkable woman who made every visit to Fox's so enjoyable and set the standard for customer service. We promise to stir pleasant memories of date nut bread in the Connecticut Room, back to school shopping, and the wonderful Christmas season at G. Fox & Co.! You may sign up with Brook Nowak in Luther Hall.



SPROUT

This program invites children from our Frog Hollow neighborhood to come on Saturday mornings, eat a healthy breakfast, play active games in the gym and leave with a bagged lunch. Please contact Terri Dwyer at (860)521-0714 or e-mail her at terri.dwyer@comcast.net for more information.

The Story of Emanuel's

November 1 was All Saints Sunday

On that day we gave thanks for all the saints of God, including the saints of Emanuel who entered their eternal rest during the past year, since November 2014. We give thanks for each of them and for their lives of faithfulness and service:

*Richard C. Smith
December 2, 2014*

*Clarence Gustafson
December 19, 2014*

*Kenneth W. Johnson
December 26, 2014*

*Carolyn K. Liljedahl
January 30, 2015*

*Ruth S. Aronson
February 15, 2015*

*Hans G. Erickson
February 27, 2015*

*Donald G. Olson
March 9, 2015*

*E. Kenneth Grahn
March 20, 2015*

*Helga Mazeika
April 21, 2015*

*Everett F. Johnson
May 12, 2015*

*Theodora Z. Rosenlof
May 29, 2015*

*Constance Sundkvist
August 19, 2015*

*Robert C. Johnson
September 2, 2015*

*Justina V. Olson
September 5, 2015*

*Clarence McCarron
October 21, 2015*

LACE ALTAR RAIL CLOTH

Early in 1930, Emanuel received a gift, along with a letter from Sweden, which provided touching moments as it was read to the congregation. The gift was the beautiful hand-crocheted lace edging on the altar rail cloth displayed today. The Altar Guild felt this gift, which has been stored for many years, should be seen and appreciated by our congregation on All Saints' Sunday. Following is the letter, which accompanied this special gift of love, from this true 'saint' whose name we do not know.



"There is not really much to say about me. I came to Hartford May 23, 1897. I was in America almost ten years; of those years I was in Hartford about 3 years, but my friends there became so dear to me. I always felt at home. I journeyed back to Sweden in 1907. During all the time since then, it has been so wonderful to get letters and the church paper from my friends there.

How did the thought of an altar cloth come to me? Well, when I read in your newspaper about the huge undertaking you were involved in with building the church, I thought: How wonderful it would be to join in, but what could I do? Yes, I could crochet some lace for the altar. It will be a greeting to my friends.

I wrote and asked one of my friends for the altar measurements at Emanuel. The altar lace we have here in our church is so beautiful that I decided to make one for you with exactly the same pattern.

I started my work the first of April, 1926. Since I was not allowed to remove the cloth from the church, I sat in the church three times to copy the pattern. And my, how I froze! Even though I was dressed in a hat, wool sweater, winter coat and galoshes, I froze terribly. But during the whole time I thought what fun it would be when the cloth was finished. Often my prayer to God was that I continue to be healthy and keep my eyesight so that I could finish the work. Everything went well. I didn't tire. Whenever I had some free time, I crocheted. For two years and four months, I have been working on it. And then I sent the laces to America with friends. I hope they are welcome."



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am: Staff Meeting	2 6 - 8 pm: St. Lucia Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 7 - 8:30 pm: Stephen Ministry Supervision in the Conference Room 7 - 8:15 pm: Confirmation Class	3 9:30 am: Crafty Painters, Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Music Room Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	4 St. Lucia Festival Performances at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. with a reception following each performance No Friday Night Program	5 No SPROUT
6 Second Sunday of Advent 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion - Sunday School New Members Received Prayers for Healing After the 10:00 am service: 1st Sunday Hoops! In the Gym	7 6:30 pm: Finance Committee Meeting	8 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Church Council in Luther Hall	9	10 9:30 am: Crafty Painters, Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Music Room 12 Noon: "Seniors Together" Christmas Brunch Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	11 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	12 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
13 Third Sunday of Advent 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion Sunday School After 10 am Service: Blood Pressure Screening in the Music Room 1:30 - 4 pm: Seifel Recital	14	15 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Executive Committee Meeting Deadline for "God With Us"	16 7 - 8:15 pm: Confirmation Class 7 - 8:30 pm: Stephen Ministry Supervision in the Conference Room	17 9:30 am: Crafty Painters, Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Music Room Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	18 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	19 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion Sunday School	21	22 9:30 am: Staff Meeting	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm: Candlelight Festival Service of Worship 10:30 pm: Christmas Prelude 11:00 pm: Candlelight Festival Service of Worship	25 Church Office Closed Merry Christmas!	26
27 First Sunday of Christmas 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion Sunday School 1 pm: The Wedding of Janice Favreau and John Pelkey	28	29 No Staff Meeting Emanuel to prepare and serve a MANNA Meal 11 am: Meal preparation in Luther Hall Kitchen 5 - 8:30 pm: Emanuel to serve the meal at Christ Church Cathedral	30	31 Church Office Closed New Year's Eve at Emanuel 5 pm: Service of Worship		

Birthdays and Anniversaries are noted each month for persons who are:

- 80 years of age and every year thereafter.
- Married for 50 years and every year thereafter.

Special Emanuel Birthdays During December!

Vera Biorklund - December 4

Karin Stetson - December 10

Marjorie Acker - December 13

Inger Swanson - December 14

Ellie Olson - December 18

Special Emanuel Anniversaries During December!

Elaine and Lanard Krause
December 15, 59th

Baptized into God's family on November 8:

Connor James Cleary, son of Johanna and Ryan Cleary, born on September 3, 2015. Godparents are Amanda Turco and Jeffrey Cleary. The Water Carrier was Geneva Swanson. Congratulations and God's blessings to the newly baptized and his family!

Nicholas Hugh Thogmartin, son of Stephanie and Christopher Thogmartin, born on January 26, 2011. Godparents are Lauren Diloreto and Jovanni Valentini. The Water Carrier was Geneva Swanson. Congratulations and God's blessings to the newly baptized and his family!



Confirmation Youth gatherings for middle school students and parents are held twice a month on Wednesday evenings. Please see calendar on page 9. For more information contact Natalie Bloomquist.

Faith Budget

The faith budget is that portion of our operating budget that both enables Emanuel to meet its ministry commitments and provides opportunity for each us to share over and above our regular pledges. For 2015, the budget approved at the annual meeting includes a faith budget line item of \$37,000.

The Church Council and I want you to be aware of this, trusting that some of you will begin to make donations as you're able. For some, I know, there is little or no discretionary money available in your personal budget. For many others of us, that is not the case. Please consider this need and opportunity prayerfully and share as generously.

Pastor Corgan

**The First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, December 27
One Service only at
10:00 a.m.**

College Students and Modeen Scholars leading us in worship

P R E P A R E A N D / O R S E R V E

Join us on Tuesday,
December 29, as we
together prepare and
serve a MANNA meal
to some of those in
Hartford who don't
have a home.

11:00 a.m. - Emanuel will
prepare the meal in the
Luther Hall kitchen

5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Emanuel will meet at Christ
Church Cathedral to serve
the Meal

Contact: David Kiersznowski



Courtyard and Memorial Garden Renovation

Plans are under development for a much needed renovation of the courtyard and Memorial Garden. Bernie Johnson from Property Committee has been working with a landscape designer and other contractors on a project that would include replacement of the existing sidewalks with pavers, removal of existing trees/shrubs, planting of new trees, shrubs and perennials in the courtyard and along

the front of the parish building, irrigation, fencing and granite memorial stones with the names of those interred in the Memorial Garden. As part of the project, engraved memorial pavers will be sold for \$100 each during a campaign that will run from now through the end of January to give members and friends the opportunity to purchase an engraved paver in memory of loved ones or honoring family, events, or committees. Order forms are being sent to the congregation, or

they may be obtained in the Church Office. The total project cost is approximately \$65,000, funded by the Justina and Evert Olson bequest, the Rev. Eugene Mitchell Memorial Garden fund, income from the sale of engraved pavers, and other donations. Council unanimously approved the full project at its November 17 meeting. Work is expected to begin in the spring of 2016 with completion by Memorial Day.



Bring a little joy!

Emanuel’s Distribution of Christmas Poinsettias - Are you willing to deliver a poinsettia to a member or friend of Emanuel? Together, we can be sure that each of the Christmas poinsettias will end up in the home of someone who needs a little lift. Some of the people who receive our poinsettias may be alone and without family this holiday season. Your volunteering can make a difference!

The poinsettias can be picked up from the church for delivery following the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve; or on Sunday, December 27, after the 10:00 a.m. service in Luther Hall (one service that day). Thank you.

Prayer Friends Needed!

by Natalie Bloomquist

Each student in Emanuel’s Confirmation ministry has a secret Prayer Friend who remains with him or her throughout the three years of confirmation instruction. Through prayer, the Prayer Friend has an impact on the life of the student through intercession to God. Prayer Friends pray regularly for their assigned confirmation student and send simple correspondence and special wishes on birthdays, baptismal anniversaries and holidays. Their identity remains a

secret for three years until they are revealed just days before Affirmation of Baptism Sunday.

Would you consider serving as a prayer friend? Early adolescence is a difficult time, and the academic and social pressures society places on our middle school youth are tremendous. You can make a difference in their lives by keeping them intentionally in prayer and reminding them that Jesus is with them always, and that they are in your thoughts and, most importantly, your prayers.

The benefits of this ministry flow both ways. God created us to be in relationship with others, and this ministry not only brings joy to both the Prayer Friend and the confirmation youth but also meaning and a depth of faith that comes from regular, simple, down-to-earth prayer.

There is no standard profile for a Prayer Friend! They are individuals, couples, families and friends teaming together to serve. All are important and meaningful partners in this ministry.

Please call, e-mail or speak with me at church for more information or to offer your service.

To see a list of Committees and Ministries of Emanuel and ways you can participate, please go to our website!

1. www.emanuelhartford.org
2. Click on the black tab at the top of the page titled, “Serve.”
3. Scroll down and on the right side of the page you’ll see the logo for Sign Up Genius. Click on it!



Prayers and best wishes to Pastor Corgan as he prepares for retirement.

He will be missed.

- Monsignor Charles W. Daly

Brighten someone’s day by taking our beautiful altar flowers to them!

Each Sunday after the late service, we try to make arrangements for the delivery of the altar flowers to our hospitalized and/or shut-in members. Claudia Bellis and Brook Nowak do a great job with our flower ministry. If you'd be willing to help on a Sunday with a delivery, please look for Claudia or Brook in or near the Luther Hall kitchen. Thanks. You'll surely brighten someone's day!



Clarence McCarron died on October 21, 2015. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held on November 6, 2015.

Ann Ekwall Palmberg died on October 27, 2015. Ann was a long-time member and the sister of Walter Ekwall

Pat Polowitz died on November 9, 2015.

May the comfort and hope of the resurrection be with the family and friends of this saint.

Giving made simple. . . with Simply Giving

Many people already take advantage of today's technology to manage their finances and pay bills effortlessly and on time. There are similar ways to contribute to church on an ongoing basis and/or pay your pledge. The Simply Giving program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union is a convenient, safe way for individuals to make automatic payments to Emanuel through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from checking or savings accounts. Using Thrivent's Simply Giving program is a real win-win:

- no more remembering to write checks and grab your envelopes as you leave the house for worship on Sunday - or worry about keeping up with your pledge while on vacation,
- it eliminates the need for paper envelopes; it's a greener, more cost effective solution to ongoing giving - it can reduce the \$1,600 Emanuel spends per year on contribution envelopes for members,
- it provides Emanuel's operating budget with a predictable, steady flow on the receipt of your financial commitment - which improves cash flow through the year.

Simply Giving is, quite honestly, simple to use and set up. A form is available in the church office (we can send it to you via USPS mail or email). Check out the details at Simply Giving at www.simplygivingbythriventcu.com/ - this will bring you to the VANCO Services website which administers the Simply Giving program.

You can choose to give weekly or monthly. You can use Simply Giving whether or not you have formally pledged. Simply Giving automatically deducts the amount

you pre-authorize from your bank account and deposits it in Emanuel's operating account. Emanuel receives weekly confirmations of these deposits, insuring that your gift is then posted to your Emanuel account. You predetermine when these automatic deductions are to terminate or change. And if you think you'll miss the tradition of placing something in the offering plate each Sunday, Simply Giving can provide cards that indicate you're a Simply Giving participant.

It's a good program that can enhance your stewardship experience. Simplify your giving - join the growing number of people participating in Simply Giving at Emanuel.

Any questions can be directed to Jane Wunder at 860-525-0894 or jane.wunder@emanuelhartford.org.

Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in Germany!

This very special trip focuses on Martin Luther. Pastor Corgan endorses and supports this journey.

Tour Overview: 11 days including arrival and departure days

- Starting in Berlin, visit the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and take pictures of Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust Memorial.
- In Wittenberg, see Luther House, and visit St. Mary's Church and Melancthon House. Continue to Leipzig to visit the Thomaskirche, where J.S. Bach worked.
- Visit Luther's Birthplace Museum, Luther's Death House Museum, St. Andrew's Church, and St. Peter & Paul Church in Eisleben, and the Augustinian Monastery and Merchant's Bridge in Erfurt.
- Journey to Wartburg Castle,

where Luther translated the New Testament, Luther House, and St. George's Church in Eisenach.

- Visit Coburg Fortress one of the largest surviving medieval fortresses in Germany.
- Tour Worms, where the Imperial Council passed judgment on Luther in 1521. Visit Trinity Church where Luther presented his case, and the famed Reformation Monument.
- In Mainz, visit the Gutenberg Museum, and enjoy a romantic Rhine River cruise through the prettiest part of the Rhine Valley. Next is Rothenburg, a medieval walled town famous for its Christmas ornaments, to see St. Jacob's Church and its renowned Blood Altar.
- Follow in Luther's footsteps and visit St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Nuremberg and then onto Augsburg, where Luther and his followers proclaimed their beliefs.
- In Munich visit Marienplatz with its Old and New Town Halls. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel.
- Recapture your knowledge of the history of the Lutheran Church, enjoy the fellowship of others, and renew your faith.

Please call me to answer questions you have about this exciting opportunity. Lisa Martin
860.929.0708

Please remember to bring in donations of food (canned, non perishable) for the MANNA Food Pantry - we have a collection box in Luther Hall. Thanks!

Large print worship bulletins are available each Sunday morning. Please let an usher know if you would like one.

The Samaritan Fund

Just to remind you, the loose offering received on the first Sunday of the month goes to the Samaritan Fund. The Samaritan Fund, administered by Pastor Corgan, is used to assist people in need.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please remember, there are always prayer shawls available for anyone in need of this symbol of love and caring. Speak to Helen Johnson (860-649-6661) or Karen in the church office.

New Flower Chart

In order to encourage people to sign up for altar flower donations, please note the "Flower Chart" on the bulletin board near the kitchen in Luther Hall. You may use this chart to pick a Sunday, or Sundays, when you would like to donate altar flowers. Checks (indicating the date for flowers on the memo line) may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate with the form from the blue sheet. We hope to have flower donations for every Sunday of the year! Thanks for your help.

Please visit our website at: www.emanuelhartford.org

The website can be added as a button on your SmartPhone or tablet. Recent updates to the website include Sermons, FAQ's, and Newsletters.

Listen to MP3 files:
<http://emanuelhartford.org/worship/sermons/>

Here's the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) link to our website:
<http://emanuelhartford.org/aboutus/faqs/>

The Calendar is on page 9 of our newsletter, "God With Us."

Please contact **Becki Murphy** at becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org if you have any questions.

The Emanuel Archives

The Building Begins, the Cornerstone is Placed



by John Starkes

It is June of 1912, Emanuel's new parsonage on Capitol Avenue is finished and very beautiful in the eyes of their new pastor, Dr. Youngert and his family. With enough funds remaining from the initial drive, plans turn to building the new church with an on-going fund raising effort at full speed, among the congregation and community. Architectural plans are accepted, as prepared by A.F. Simmour of Bloomington, Illinois, with construction estimates of \$53,000 to \$62,280 to be considered. There was difficulty in the additional costs of \$11,250 for granite, so it was voted by the congregation to build just the basement so as to have a place for worship as soon as possible while reviews were made.

The intent was to have a fully modern church while striving to keep it true to the simple Lutheran style. The dimensions would be 120 feet long by 64 feet wide. Once the basement was finished for worship use and paid for, the temple itself would be worthy of the Swedish Lutheran desire.

The congregation was very optimistic as the spirit and the economy of the community was strong, even to be confident that all the Swedish folk of the city would contribute towards the completion of such a project; they had no doubt at all as work progressed full speed into December of 1912.

Of course the winter of Connecticut has its own mind to delay progress with frost and cold so that the cement work on the foundation,

hoped to be completed before the frost set-in, was delayed, but as the cut stones arrived all was forgotten. Visions of Rome and the building of the temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon restored the excitement and interest. By April 1913, attention focused on the cornerstone project with a plea for building pledges for those that had been overlooked in the fund drive, all in the interest of having their names included with the archives to be placed in the capsule of the cornerstone at the time of its laying. That event would be April 27, a significant date to commemorate the birth of the Augustine Synod, Dr. Youngert's birthday, wedding anniversary and his graduation from the Seminary.

Of course there were great crowds of people for that event, city representatives, church dignitaries from all over, and those high ranking seats of the New England Conference for the service of laying the stone. Even the streets about the site were lined with flapping flags and banners. A great speech was offered as found in the book, *God With Us*, by Norma Westlund Sandberg, page 28.

Construction continued into the summer and the congregation was able to move into the basement for their first services of worship in August of 1913. Dr Youngert was installed as pastor of Emanuel at the dedication service.

*Source – *God With Us– 1889-1989*, by Norma Westlund Sandberg

CALUMET LUTHERAN MINISTRIES AT OSSIPEE LAKE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Calumet Luther Hostel for Emanuel's Seniors was held on October 13 - 16, 2015

It Was a Great Fall Get-a-way!

If stones could talk, what would they say? This Luther hostel included a special presentation by Mr. Kevin Gardner on "Discovering New England Stone Walls." Kevin's informal talk covered a few of the main topics of his book about New England stone walls, The Granite Kiss, touching on history, technique, stylistic development, and aesthetics. He explained how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, and their significance to the famous New England landscape.

Interestingly, as Kevin spoke to the good-sized assembly the second evening at Calumet, most watched him as he spoke of the stone walls, but also observed some interesting activity taking place on the table before him as he kept reaching into a couple bowls of grey pebbles and stones, assembling a miniature stone wall on the surface. When complete it



looked just like the stonewash we'd see along the road.

Most interesting was the background history of the millions upon millions of rounded gray stones that covered the New England countryside when the early settlers first arrived, the results of the glaciers that shaped the land tearing the layers of stone and rock to pieces as the ice moved to grind them eventually into the rounded rock that covered the land.

Over those early colonial times much of the stone was used as ballast for empty ships sailing back to Europe where they were quickly sold for building. What we see now comes from the rocks uncovered as farmland soil was turned and is now used for property boundary walls, in some

cases found in forests where fields converted back to the wild.

Our Senior Hostel offered other attractions to fill our days; an evening of music by a collector of unusual

accordions from the past, each unique as the instrument was developed. Most of us had no idea just how the music is created by such a device.

Our three-day Calumet hostel also included a visit to a nearby 19th century village museum not far from Calumet in southeast Maine, a chance to enjoy the beautiful colors of hills and lakes at the peak of Autumn. Also an incredible slide show of photographs of the Hubble Space Explorer Satellite returned.



"Christ in our Home"

Be sure to look in the back of the Nave, outside the Chapel and in Luther Hall on Sundays. There you will find the October, November, December complimentary issue of *Christ in our Home*, a wonderful devotional that offers daily opportunities for reflection and prayer. Each day provides a short Bible text with a brief, thoughtful message and simple prayer.

The Altar Flower Form and the Poinsettia Order Form is on page 19 of this newsletter

Serving in December

Acolyte and Crucifer

Dec. 6	Samuel Johnson Brynn Murphy
Dec. 13	Trey Hazard Hannah Karim
Dec. 20	Noah Fairchild Harrison Arcand
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Volunteers needed for 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.
Dec. 27	Gunnar Johnson Matthew Anderson

Altar Flowers

Dec. 6	Open
Dec. 13	Open
Dec. 20	Open
Dec. 27	There will be no regular altar flowers on this Sunday - four poinsettia plants will be in the altar area.

Assisting Ministers

Dec. 6	Brook Nowak
Dec. 13	Janice Favreau
Dec. 20	Mal Doyle
Dec. 27	Alan Meeds

Childcare in the Nursery

Dec. 6	Open
Dec. 13	Open
Dec. 20	Open
Dec. 27	Open

Children's Library

Dec. 6	Monica Swanson and Diane Troutman
Dec. 13	Nancy Gray
Dec. 20	Closed
Dec. 27	Closed

Coffee Hour

Dec. 6, 13, and 20:	Hosted by the Coffee Hour Committee
Dec. 27	College Students and Modeen Scholars

Communion Preparers

Dec. 6	Bobbee Canfield and Marjorie Johnson
Dec. 13	Val and Craig McDonald
Dec. 20	Open
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve-Open
Dec. 27	Bobbee Canfield

Communion Servers

Dec. 6	Open
Dec. 13	Open
Dec. 20	Open
Dec. 27	Open

Greeters

Dec. 6	Dr. Craig and Valerie McDonald
Dec. 13	Hannah Bloomquist and Kristen Wieber
Dec. 20	Sunday School Children
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. The Lee Sherman family 11:00 p.m. The Corgan family
Dec. 27	Shirley August

Lectors - 8:00 a.m.

Dec. 6	Nancy Gray
Dec. 13	Randy Olson
Dec. 20	Carol Dennler,
Dec. 27	No 8:00 p.m. Service

Lectors - 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 6	Monique Jennings
Dec. 13	Deborah Corgan
Dec. 20	Joy Elwell, Henry Sinche, Mebret Farquhar, Charles Sinche, Brynn Murphy.
Dec. 27	Alan Meeds
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Diana Sherman and Lee Sherman; 11:00 p.m. Kathy Haller and Janice Favreau

Sound and Recording

Dec. 6	Mal Doyle
Dec. 13	Kyle Bellis
Dec. 20	Rhiannon Kiersznowski
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Kelly Caldwell; 11:00 p.m. Tyler Gabriel
Dec. 27	Emma Barresi

Sunday School Aide Schedule

December 6

PreSchool - Kindergarten:
Lindsey Anderson
Grades 1 and 2: Lindsay Altschuler
Grades 3 and 4: Rhiannon
Kiersznowski

Grade 5: *volunteer needed*

December 13

PreSchool - Kindergarten:
Ally Graulich
Grades 1 and 2: Matt Graulich
Grades 3 and 4: Lindsay Varney
Grade 5: *volunteer needed*

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Nelson Gottier
10:00 a.m.	Head Usher: Arnie Benson; Captain: Michael Coons; Ushers: James Ashwell Celine Coons, Russ Bjorklund, Gary Bloomquist

New Year's Eve At Emanuel

Thursday, December 31

5:00 p.m. - Service of Worship



On Sunday, November 15, the Youth Group led and worked at our church neighborhood clean up!

The Youth raked, swept and bagged leaves on Hungerford Street from the intersection of Capitol Avenue to Russ Street. Many thanks to them and all of you who supported this event.



During worship on November 8 the Youth Group shared a "Detroit Moment." In addition, they helped serve at Coffee Hour. Thank you to the Doyle and Hansen families who hosted the Coffee Hour.



A joyful moment in Sunday School on November 15!



Using Our Facilities

Emanuel is so fortunate to have such wonderful facilities - a gymnasium, classrooms, a comfortable lounge, Luther Hall fellowship space with a well-equipped kitchen, conference space and two beautiful worship spaces in the church and chapel. Outside groups often use our facilities, and last year the Council approved "facility use guidelines," an application form, insurance requirements, and use fees to guide the use of our facilities by outside groups. We are also glad to make Emanuel's spaces available to members, and now have guidelines for member use, adopted last month by Council, which clarify for everyone how spaces/equipment may be used. There is no "use" fee for members, but a small charge to cover our sexton's extra time spent opening/closing the church, furniture setup/take down, and cleanup/trash removal. And, of course, personal events/activities can only be scheduled as other church sponsored activities permit. If you'd like more information, please call Jane Wunder.

All classes gathered together on November 15 as a Sunday School Family to sing, play Jesse Tree Bingo, and make ornaments for daily Advent devotions at home. Each child brought home their ornaments, daily Bible readings and a Spark Story Bible to borrow during Advent.



Groups vow unity ahead of Reformation anniversary

By Laura Crimaldi, Globe Staff
November 12, 2015

Nearly 500 years ago, German monk Martin Luther was said to have nailed a list of questions and debate topics on Catholicism to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, and changed the world.

Now as the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation approaches in October 2017, local Catholic and Lutheran church leaders said they are celebrating their common ground and uniting to confront environmental problems. Their divisions, they said, are history.

"I would say 500 years ago we had a split and it's about time for us to start

the next chapter and figure out how we're going to be Christians together on this planet," said Bishop James Hazelwood in an interview Wednesday. He leads the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which has about 66,000 members.

In a letter made public Thursday, Hazelwood and Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, announced plans to mark the anniversary by pushing for unity and collaboration between the Christian denominations.

"Our common ground lies in the life-giving Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We share one baptism into Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior," Hazelwood and O'Malley wrote. "As

we proceed toward this observance, we give thanks for our mutual baptism into Christ Jesus and our irrevocable commitment to full visible unity."

One way Hazelwood and O'Malley are encouraging Lutherans and Catholics to commemorate the Reformation is by reading Pope Francis's encyclical on climate change and the environment, "On Care for Our Common Home," which was published in June.

The letter urges the faithful to read and discuss the encyclical in small groups. Service projects, academic and arts events, and a joint service are also being planned, the letter said.

There are about 1.8 million Catholics in the Boston Archdiocese.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Cost: \$18.00 each

Deadline is December 13, 2015

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone number: _____

Person responsible for payment: _____

Altar Flowers—\$45.00

Please use the form below for a flower donation and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you.

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Today's Date: _____

Given by: _____

Date for Flowers: _____

Phone Number: _____

Questions? Call the Church Office 525-0894

God With Us

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

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Growing in Faith Together.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Opposite the State Capitol Grounds

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor John Corgan: Cell Phone: 860-712-1895

Church Office: 860-525-0894

Fax: 860-246-3720

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. in the Church

Sunday School

Sunday School begins after the

Children's Message at the

10:00 a.m. worship service.